

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 2 and 10-13 have been amended and claim 5 has been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.


Applicants appreciate the indication of allowability for claims 2-7, 11 and 13-17. By this Amendment, the allowable features of claim 5 have been incorporated into claims 1, 10 and 12. Applicants assert that claims 1, 10 and 12 are allowable based on the incorporation of claim 5 alone and not intermediate claim 2. Applicants also amend allowable claims 2, 11 and 13 into independent form.

The rejection of claims 1, 8, 9, 10, 12 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP 8-38834 has been rendered moot by the incorporation of allowable claim 5 alone into claims 1, 10 and 12. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-4 and 6-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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